

Department of Political Science

Contact Information:

Campus Location: 1102 Behavioral Science Building (BSB)
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Administration:

Head of the Department: Evan McKenzie
Director of Undergraduate Studies: Dick Simpson

Political science is the systematic study of politics and its connection to human life as a whole. It focuses on the way people are governed and govern themselves in a wide variety of settings—including the state, the workplace, schools, and the family—and the way in which governance in those settings affects their life chances and shapes their sense of self. Students who elect this major examine, among other things, the relationships between law and political institutions, economic and political power, and culture and political identity. They develop the analytical, interpretive, and critical methods necessary to understand these relationships at local, national, regional, or international levels, and thus, to act as responsible citizens at those levels. They also learn to write well. In short, political science is central to a well-rounded liberal arts education.

Political science also provides excellent preparation for careers in law, government, teaching, journalism, business, and the nonprofit sector.

In addition to the BA with a Major in Political Science program, the department offers two concentrations: the Concentration in Law and Courts and the Concentration in Urban Politics.

Distinction

To be considered for graduation with Distinction in political science, a student must have a minimum, cumulative UIC GPA of 3.25/4.00 and a minimum GPA of 3.50/4.00 in all political science courses. Students with the required grade point averages must write and present to a faculty examining committee of the department an acceptable essay while enrolled in POLS 305 and defend it before that committee. The student must enroll in POLS 305 for 3 semester hours in each of the fall and spring semesters of the student's senior year. Both the course and credit hours must be in addition to those required for the major. The level of distinction (Distinction, High Distinction, Highest Distinction) is determined by the department faculty, who will consider the recommendation of the faculty examining committee and the candidate's GPA.

Degree Programs

- BA with a Major in Political Science (<http://catalog.uic.edu/ucat/colleges-depts/liberal-arts-sciences/pols/ba-pols>)
- BA with a Major in Political Science, Concentration in Law and Courts (<http://catalog.uic.edu/ucat/colleges-depts/liberal-arts-sciences/pols/ba-pols-lc-conc>)
- BA with a Major in Political Science, Concentration in Urban Politics (<http://catalog.uic.edu/ucat/colleges-depts/liberal-arts-sciences/pols/ba-pols-up-conc>)

Minor

- Minor in Political Science (<http://catalog.uic.edu/ucat/colleges-depts/liberal-arts-sciences/pols/minor-pols>)